

Big shoes to fill at the 2016 volleyball tournament

Longtime Seaside Chamber of Commerce events coordinator Doug Barker will step down from his pivotal role with the Seaside Beach Volleyball Tournament. Not that he hasn't tried before — this is considered his "third annual retirement."

According to chamber members, Barker's title of events coordinator doesn't begin to cover his role in the tournament's success.

"We can never replace Doug Barker," Seaside Chamber of Commerce President Susan Huntington said at the chamber's weekly breakfast at Twisted Fish, Friday, Aug. 14. "Honestly, if we were going to split Doug, we'd need a couple other people."

When a visitor stepped on glass, it was Barker who responded, she said.

When workers were needed to break down tents, he found helpers from the fire department.

"Doug was everywhere at the volleyball tournament," Bruce T. Smith of North Coast Records added. "He was fixing electrical stuff. He was handing out salt bags. When the wind kicked up, he personally buried those pole tents. Doug, thank you."

"This town has gotten spoiled by him," Huntington said. "Would we be expected to find

SEEN FROM SEASIDE

By
R.J.
MARX

Keeping the event running smoothly has 'been a beast, like having an electric eel in your hand,' chamber president Susan Huntington said.

somebody who's also an EMT and a firefighter?"

Behind the scenes

Barker's retirement comes on the heels of one of the most successful tournaments in its history.

"We had a few hiccups, but overall it was the best I've seen," volunteer Sandy MacDowall said. MacDowall, along with Cheryl Barker managed the registration tent.

On Saturday, winds kicked up, blowing sand. When sudden showers hit, spectators used umbrellas, sweatshirts and jackets for cover.



Ken Heman, Sandy McDowall, Doug Barker, Chuck Minor, Cyndi Mudge, Bruce Smith and Susan Huntington, key organizers for the 2015 volleyball tournament, the largest amateur beach volleyball tournament in the world.

"But nobody left their seats," he said.

When one construction crew was short-handed, Barker coaxed three members of Seaside Fire and Rescue to help out. Barker said the crew was "the best I've had. Tents were set up in record time."

Organizers had originally contracted the services of a Portland-based commentator to provide play-by-play for main events, but quickly discovered he was unprepared for the event. Radio production director Ken Heman of Ohana Media Group and Bruce T. Smith of North Coast Records were pressed into duty.

"We were literally looking at Wikipedia, 'What's the difference being a dig and a save?'" Smith said.

Despite unfamiliarity with the finer points of the sport, chamber members heard reports that their effort was the best commentary the tournament has had.

Wait till next year!

In 2016, chamber member Glen Rogers will assume many of the duties previously handled by Barker, including driving the

front-loader, getting courts set up and taken down.

As for play-by-play, Smith and Heman are eager to step back into the announcers' booth. Smith told chamber members he had already purchased a beach volleyball rules book to help prepare for next year's tournament.

Along with a new events manager and announcers, the chamber will be awarding a new contract to a volleyball association to manage the sports aspect of the event.



Matt Lebourdais, right, tries to stuff a kill attempt in the Men's Open Championship Saturday in the Seaside Beach Volleyball Tournament.

The chamber's three-year contract with North Pacific Beach Volleyball Association expired this summer. The chamber is considering bids from NPBVA and groups throughout the Northwest, including Portland and northern California.

Chamber members also anticipate an increase in vendors and sponsorships. This year many vendors were so successful they ran out of product, Huntington said.

With corporate sponsors like Budweiser, Rite-Aid, Clif Bar and the National Guard, Huntington said she anticipated that list would grow. "Our goals wrap around not only having hundreds more teams than we've ever had before, but to keep running a smooth operation, trying to incorporate into the community," she said. "It's been a beast, like having an electric eel in your hand."

The stats

A record 1,509 teams came to Seaside for the tournament, the largest amateur event of its kind.

Divisions ranged from parent-and-child to Masters 55+, along with Men, Women and Co-ed Open Divisions that featured current and retired Associated of Volleyball Professional ranked players.

The team of Ramsey-Hinkley won the Women's Open Championship Saturday, followed by a victory for Matt Lebourdais and Jonny Wiskar in the Men's Open title match.

Astoria's Noelle Lund and Danielle Moyer finished in the top 16 out of 43 teams in the Women's BB doubles division, while the tournament draws players from around the state, the Pacific Northwest, and usually a number of competitors from Canada.

The doubles duo of Ramsey-Hinkley is doused after their victory in the Women's Open Championship Saturday, Aug. 8.



JEFF TER HAR/FOR EO MEDIA GROUP

Scene and Heard

CLAIRE LOVELL

Nostalgia for the thrilling, romantic days of the past

They're beginning to talk on TV about the anniversary of Israel becoming a state. I can remember when that happened in 1948. Young people from all over the world traveled there and began to make the desert bloom. Life magazine wrote all about it. The young Jews formed kibbutzim, marked off sections of land, raised gardens and formed a communal society. They worked very hard building a new life. In today's world, I'm sure one could Google the article and bring that period back. No doubt I'm wrong on some details.

There was a lot of nostalgia in the stories about Tourist No. 2 ferry in recent days. The article was

concerned with her being in Bremerton where my daughter Robin lives. Robin's dad Skip Hill worked aboard the ferry commandeered as a mine planter in the Columbia during World War II. She was kind of a tub at the time, so it was dangerous duty. Skip was stationed at Fort Stevens then as a staff sergeant in the harbor defenses of the Columbia. He mostly worked in communications in the radio shack. He was there when the Japanese sub fired on the fort. Those were thrilling and romantic days, scary, too. It was a time when I learned Morse code myself. We had a key so I was able to practice sending for a while, but never got proficient enough



CLAIRE LOVELL

to copy except random letters. Sometimes I wish I'd gotten my ham radio license. You may have suspected that I'm one of those "stop the world; I want to get off" people. I never appreciated that they changed perhaps all the names of the

code letters, for instance. What good did that do?

One evening when I took a walk, Roger Thompson was in his yard to give me a little advice. He said I should walk faster, ha. I also sort of met his neighbor's dog Belize, who often barks as I go by. Belize, also known as "B," likes to chase sticks and is fine if you get to know him. Roger also told me that some family on 11th Avenue had a bear in their yard one day. According to the proposed extension of Seaside's growth boundaries farther into the hills, (egad) we may expect more cougars and other wild animals to come down and visit, too. Why do we need more growth anyway? There are

lots of houses for sale. No one seems to be able to let well enough alone.

I was interested in Jorjett Strumme's letter to the editor. In Depression times, sweeping the street before the beginning of the business day was what everyone did in front of his store. That was also the time when merchants exchanged a few words with each other.

Friday afternoon, Alvis Porter took me along to the ice cream social at the new food bank on N. Roosevelt. Specialty of the day was black cherry ice cream — really good with hot coffee. We arrived late so there weren't many people but obviously they had served a lot of visitors. A duo of guitar-harmonica

and bass playing Western tunes pepped up the crowd. Except for too much wind blowing through, it was a nice, sunny time and the new food bank is a great addition to our services.

Laugh lines

A fellow swiped a can of peaches in a grocery store and ended up in front of a judge. "How many peaches are in the can?" asked the judge. "Five" was his reply. "OK, that will be five months in jail for each piece of fruit or 25 months," said the judge. "Wait a minute, judge," offered his wife. "He stole a can of peas, too."

When did an aileron become a flaperon? Or are they the same?

Obituaries

JoAnn Helen Walker

Sept. 9, 1936 — July 28, 2015

JoAnn Helen Walker was born in Brainerd, Minn., to her parents, Earl and Alma (Carlson) Walker. She attended Warrenton Schools.

She married Edwin Brown, with whom she raised her five children in Gearhart, Ore. She later married twice more, Donald Forrester and Herbert (Ed) Berg. She spent the majority of her life on the North Oregon and Southwest Washington coast.

JoAnn worked for many years at Public Market, later Thriftway grocery store, in Seaside, Ore. She and Ed Berg also owned and operated Faraway Farms in Seaside.

JoAnn is survived by her daughter, Sally Brown (Joy Martin); sons, Steve (Valerie), Scott (Debbie) and Jeff (Gloria) Brown; two



JoAnn Walker

brothers, Orville, Robert, Jack and Jerry Walker; and her sister, Shirley Shelton (Walker).

JoAnn spent her last few years in Ilwaco, Wash., close to family and friends. She was always interested in what others were doing, had a fond memory of the past while enjoying the present, and was known for her love of family and her many friends.

Her passion was her yard and gardens, with begonias as her favorite. She was an avid collector, but it was in her yard and with her flowers where she would be found, knees in the dirt and a smile on her face.

As per her request, there will be no formal service, but rather the encouragement to enjoy your family, friends and flowers.

grandchildren, Brenda and Adam Brown; and the light of her life, great-grandson Jered Rovario. Surviving brothers include Darald (Darlene) and James (Rutha) Walker, as well as numerous nieces, nephews, and friends. She was preceded in death by her husbands; son, Jerry Brown;

Zumba night benefits Campuzano family



REX AMOS/FOR THE CANNON BEACH GAZETTE

Victor and Carmen Campuzano with Father Nicholas Nilema at the Zumba fundraiser for the Campuzanos. While traveling to Mexico in January, the family suffered a theft of two vehicles and personal items. The fundraiser was held at Seaside High School Friday, Aug. 7 and raised more than \$1,000 for the family.

DEATHS

Aug. 6, 2015

GLEESON, Pauline Lenore, 89, of Astoria, died in Gearhart. Caldwell's Luce-Layton Mortuary is in charge of arrangements.